of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) whether police action against these groups has not been effective because of the out-dated arms supplied to the police forces; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to provide modern weapons to police forces in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per information available, the figures of persons killed in left wing extremist violence, are as follows:—

State	1997	1998	1999
Bihar	325	206	378
Madhya Pradesh	14	59	47
West Bengal	1	1	3

(b) and (c) Though availability of sophisticated weapons with the State Police may be an important requirement, it may not be the only effective remedy in the given senario of left extremism violence. However, the Central Government has been extending all possible help to the concerned States in the procurement of semi-automatic and automatic weapons and other equipments as well through some relevant schemes to enhance their operational capability.

Spurt in militancy in Kashmir after plane hijacking

657. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a spurt in the militant attacks in Kashmir valley especially since the hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane and release of three jailed militants; and

(b) if so, the details of such incidents and steps being taken to face the challenge effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) With a view to tackle the problem of terrorism in J&K, the Government have adopted a multipronged approach which includes *inter-*

alia strengthening the border management, to curb infiltration, neutralising plans of militants by Pro-active action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through Unified Headquarters and operations group at various* levels, improved weapons and equipment for SFS, galvanising development programmes and deeping the democratic process etc. This approach which is dynamic in nature is constantly reviewed to meet the changing strategy adopted by the terrorists.

ISI Activities in Northern Region

658. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is active in Northern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb the activities of ISI in Himachal Pradesh, J and K and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Militancy in J and K is aided and abetted by Pak ISI. The Pak sponsored militants including foreign mercenaries have stepped up their violence and are now targeting security forces. In Himachal Pradesh, in two separate incidents 35 persons were shot dead and 7 others injured by militants. In Punjab, though the militancy has been curbed, yet intelligence inputs indicate that Sikh militant leaders based in Pakistan are under pressure from Pak intelligence agencies to stage spectacular violent incidents.

(c) Central Government has been sensitising the State Governments about threat perceptions and movements of ISI activists, anti-national elements and insurgents from time to time. A number of ISI backed modules have been neutralised. Periodic coordination meetings are held with State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters and for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies, belonging to Union and States have been working together to counter the situation. Further, vigil on the International Border has been intensified to check infiltration, smuggling of arms and explosives etc.